

The Moths of Wimbledon: Further Records 1971-1977

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In 1962 and 1971, I recorded in the *Entomologist's Record* (74: 109; 83: 204) a list of the species of moths (macrolepidoptera) which I had taken in Wimbledon since 1956, when I first started running a mercury vapour trap in my garden near the top of Wimbledon Hill, about half a mile from Wimbledon Common. The total number of species listed was 332. Three hundred had been taken between 1956 and 1961 and 32 between 1962 and 1970. I can now add an additional 18 species to the list, all but one trapped in my garden.

NOTODONTIDAE: 1 species

Harpyia furcula Clerck, 1 only, 5.8.71.

LYMANTRIIDAE: 1 species

Euproctis chryorrhoea L., 1 on 2.8.75; 1 on 22.7.77.

ARCTIIDAE: 1 species

Thumatha senex Hübn., 1 only, 7.7.77.

NOCTUIDAE: 9 species

Polia hepatica Clerck, 1 only, 26.6.73. *Mythimna straminea* Treits., 1 only, 21.8.77. *Chilodes maritimus* Tausch., 1 on 25.7.74; 1 on 30.7.77. *Cidaria fulvata* Forst., 1 only, 28.10.77. *Eupsilia transversa* Hufn., 3 between 3.10.76 and 17.10.76. *Nycteola revayana* Scop., 1 on 19.8.76, 29.7.77 and 6.8.77.

GEOMETRIDAE: 9 species

Idaea vulpinaria atrosignaria Lempke, 1 on 28.7.75 and 2.8.75; 6 between 23.7.77 and 7.8.77. *Idaea dimidiata* Hufn., 1 on 25.7.74; 1 on 30.7.77. *Cidaria fulvata* Forst., 1 only, 24.6.71. *Perizoma bifaciata* Haw., 1 only, 30.8.77. *Eupithecia tenuiata* Hübn., 1 only, 12.7.76. *Eupithecia satyrata* Hübn., 1 only, 29.7.74. *Eupithecia phoeniceata* Ramb., 1 only, 15.9.77. *Eupithecia tantillaria* Boisd., 1 only, 12.6.77. *Chloroclystis chloerata* Mabille, 5 bred from larvae.

In my 1971 report I referred to the lists published by de Worms (1953-57) and that compiled by Mr. L. J. M. Wakely from the records of his father, Sir Leonard Wakely, who had collected on Wimbledon Common between 1910 and 1959. Of the 18 "new" species, six are recorded by de Worms as having been taken in Wimbledon or on Wimbledon Common and three were caught by Sir Leonard Wakely. Eleven of the species do not appear in either list. Perhaps the most interesting of these are *E. chryorrhoea*, *M. straminea*, *C. maritimus*, *L. leautieri*, *Idaea vulpinaria*, *E. phoeniceata* and *C. chloerata*. The two wainscots are presumably vagrants for it is difficult to believe they can be breeding locally. However, the capture of single specimens of *L. leautieri* and *E. phoeniceata*, both in 1977, presumably reflects their eastward and inland spread as breeding species, and the appearance of *I. vulpinaria* in 1975, and more strongly in 1977, indicates how it is spreading westwards from Kent. According to Evans and Evans (1973),

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this species was first noticed south of London in 1961. As for *C. chloerata*, several larvae were obtained within a few minutes by beating blackthorn in flower on Wimbledon Common in April 1974. It is presumably well established there amongst the scanty blackthorn bushes.

It is interesting to speculate as to how many of the 350 species of moths caught between 1956 and 1977 still reside in the Wimbledon area. Some caught in the 1950s and 1960s have not been seen for many years. But they may still survive and I was encouraged to find a specimen of *Acronicta alni* L. in my trap on 2.6.76, after a lapse of 20 years, my only other record being one caught on 28.5.56. *T. senex* is another interesting survivor; it found its way into my garden in July 1977. It is not on Sir Leonard Wakely's list but de Worms gives a record for it — on Wimbledon Common in 1889!

References

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ARCHINEMAPOGON LATERELLA (THUNBERG): ARCTUATELLA (STAINTON) (LEP.: TINEIDAE) IN INVERNESS-SHIRE. — Mark Stirling and I, whilst recording Lepidoptera for the Nature Conservancy on the banks of Loch an Eilein, Aviemore, caught a specimen of *A. laterella* flying around birch on 5th July, 1977. I understand that this moth has only been caught infrequently in recent years. — H. C. J. GODFRAY, St. Peter's College, Oxford OX1 2DL.

HARMONIA QUADRIPUNCTATA (PONT.) IN KENT. — Whilst beating Spruce in Andrew's Wood, N.W. Kent on 28th April, 1978, a large and unfamiliar Ladybird fell into the tray, which I subsequently determined as *Harmonia quadripunctata* (Pont.). There appears to be no previous published record of this beetle for Kent. The species was first added to the British list in 1941 on a specimen taken during 1939 in Suffolk. Since then, it has colonised a number of southern counties, especially Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex. The beetle is mainly associated with conifers, but has been recorded from apple orchards abroad. My thanks to A. A. Allen and R. D. Pope for their useful observation on this beetle. — P. A. SOKOLOFF, 4 Steep Close, Orpington, Kent.